

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MMO-04 PER-05 CA-01 SS-15 SP-02

ABF-01 NSC-05 OMB-01 A-01 /046 W

-----104411 101023Z /15

R 100804Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6248

UNCLAS KHARTOUM 0074

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMGT, APER, CGEN

SUBJ: EMBASSY STAFFING: NEED FOR CONSUL IN KHARTOUM

1. IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT EMBASSY KHARTOUM NEEDS AN EXPANDED AND UPGRADED CONSULAR SECTION. I THINK OUR IMMEDIATE NEEDS CAN BE SATISFIED BY THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN FSO-4 OR AN EXPERIENCED FSO-5 WHO CAN HEAD THE SECTION WITH THE RANK OF CONSUL. SUCH AN ASSIGNMENT WOULD REFLECT THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF US-SUDAN RELATIONS AND IS NEEDED SIMPLY IN TERMS OF EXISTING AND PROJECTED CONSULAR WORKLOAD. MOREOVER, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO HAVE AN ENLARGED CONSULAR SECTION HERE IF WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE CONSULAR SERVICES IN THIS VAST, VERY UNDEVELOPED COUNTRY THAT CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC EXPECT.

2. DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE OF RECENT DECISIONS BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND NSC TO ACCELERATE OUR SUPPORT FOR SUDAN. THESE DECISIONS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED SOON INWAYS THAT WILL BRING SCORES OF AMERICANS TO SUDAN. FOR EXAMPLE, AS C-130 PROGRAM IS IMPLEMENTED, OVER THIRTY NEW AMERICANS WILL TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN SUDAN, SOME WITH THEIR FAMILIES. THIS IS JUST ONE OF SEVERAL PROGRAMS ABOUT TO BE IMPLEMENTED. IN ADDITION SEVERAL US COMPANIES AND OTHER

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ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING EMBASSY ITSELF, ARE EXPANDING AND THIS TREND EXPECTED CONTINUE AND EVEN ACCELERATE OVER NEXT FEW YEARS. SIMILARY, NUMBER OF SUDANESE TRAVELLING TO US AS WELL AS AMERICANS VISITING SUDAN INCREASING. IN SHORT, DEMAND FOR CONSULAR SERVICES ALREADY INTENSIFYING AND WE ONLY AT BEGINNING OF MAJOR ANTICIPATED EXPANSION, NOT ONLY IN KHARTOUM BUT THROUGHOUT SUDAN.

3. CURRENT STATISTICS SUPPORT POINTS MADE ABOVE.

	FISCAL YEAR					
ITEM	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	
NON-IMMIGRANT VISA CASES	400	314	1007	874	1347	
IMMIGRANT VISA CASES	19	14	20	9	30	
TOTAL CITIZENSHIP/ PASSPORT SERVICES	53	64	64	139	155	
PASSPORTS ISSUED	3	14	22	41	51	
TOTAL SCS SERVICES	400	391	405	430	486	
TOTAL RESIDENT US CITIZENS (EST)	100	162	238	320	400	

4. IN ADDITION TO ASSIGNMENT CONSUL IN CONTEXT IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS AND IN CONSIDERATION RAPIDLY INCREASING DEMAND FOR CONSULAR SERVICES, OTHER QUOTE QUALITATIVE UNQUOTE CONSIDERATIONS EXIST. SUDAN HAS WELL OVER 150,000 FOREIGN REFUGEES WITHIN ITS BORDERS AND MANY SEEK ENTRY INTO US. LARGER AMERICAN COMMUNITY INEVITABLY WILL LEAD TO MORE COMPLEX AND SENSITIVE CONSULAR REQUIREMENTS. GREATER NUMBERS SUDANESE TRAVELLING TO US WILL INCLUDE LARGE NUMBERS VIPS AND OTHERS REQUESTING OR REQUIRING SPECIAL TREATMENT. THESE AND SIMILAR CONSIDERATIONS ARGUE STRONGLY FOR AN UPGRADED SECTION HEADED BY EXPERIENCED OFFICER WITH RANK OF CONSUL WHO CAN UNDERTAKE THE MANY DELICATE AND IMPORTANT TASKS

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THAT CAN BE EXPECTED TO BECOME MORE COMMON BOTH IN KHARTOUM AND IN PROVINCES OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: ENTIRE CONSULAR SITUATION HERE HAS CHANGED RADICALLY IN PAST YEAR OR SO AND OTHER CHANGES ARE IMMINENT. I AM CONVINCED THAT THE QUICK ASSIGNMENT HERE OF A CAPABLE, EXPERIENCED CONSUL IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SMOOTH MANAGEMENT OF THIS MISSION AND THE SUCCESSFUL ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR OVERALL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES. REQUEST THAT NEW POSITION BE ESTABLISHED AND OFFICER ASSIGNED TO FILL IT SOONEST. BERGUS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KHARTO00074
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780014-0551
Format: TEL
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780181/aaaacqri.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 28b0eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3802454
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMBASSY STAFFING: NEED FOR CONSUL IN KHARTOUM
TAGS: AMGT, APER, CGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/28b0eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014